

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAJ-01 FEA-02 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 SAM-01 NIC-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 005032

R 031100Z MAR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 810

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: SADDAM HUSSEIN TRIP TO MOSCOW

1. FEB 25-27 VISIT TO MOSCOW BY RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS WELL KEPT SECRET UNTIL HIS RETURN. SPECULATION ABOUT PURPOSE OF VISIT RANGES FROM FINNISH AMBASSADOR WHO IS CONVINCED IT WAS TO SEEK FULL SOVIET BACKING FOR WAR OF EXTERMINATION AGAINST KURDS (HE CLAIMS TO HAVE REPORT THAT SOVIETS WILL BE AIR SHIPPING SPECIAL WEAPONS FOR THIS PURPOSE) TO INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR WHO RELATES VISIT TO GROMYKO VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND SOVIET EFFORT TO KEEP SYRIA FROM  
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GOING TO GENEVA.

2. COMPOSITION OF IRAQI DEL INDICATES DISCUSSIONS COULD HAVE COVERED ALL ASPECTS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS; MILITARY ASSISTANCE (CHEIF OF STAFF SHANSHAL), INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (MININDUSTRY JAZRAWI), OIL (FAKRI QADDOURI) AND POLITICAL ISSUE (SADDAM). JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUE IS UNINFORMATIVE SINCE KEY ISSUE ARE EITHER GLOSSED OVER (E.G. MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, WHERE PHRASE "LIBERATION OF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" ALLOWS IRAQIS TO INTERPRET IT TO MEAN ALL OF PALESTINE) OR OMITTED (E.G. OIL, IRANIAN-IRAQI CLASH, ARAB GULF). PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY IS ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO BAATH LED NATIONAL FRONT AND KURDISH AUTONOMY PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN PROPAGANDA THEME ON BOTH SIDES. ONE AREA OF ACCORD APPEARS TO BE MUTUALITY OF INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING COHESION AMONG ANTI-IMPERIALIST ARAB STATES AND USSR TO FIGHT ZIONISM AND IMPERIALISM. THIS IS THEME THAT WAS ALSO STRESSED IN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON VISIT WHICH CALLED RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS INDISPENSABLE FOR DEFEATING "IMPERIALIST" SCHEMES TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINE AND ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

3. COMMENT: REASON FOR SECRECY PROBABLY RESULT OF NERVOUSNESS OF IRAQI LEADERS. THIS IS FIRST VISIT OUTSIDE IRAQ BY EITHER PRESIDENT BAKR OR SADDAM SINCE ABORTIVE COUP JUNE 1973. DIFFERENCES OVER APPROACH TO ME SETTLEMENT AND OIL MARKETING THAT PRNOMAREV'S AND NOVILOV'S VISITS APPARENTLY FAILED TO RESOLVE WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE NEW HIGH MEETING AND IT WAS IRAQ'S TURN. IN ADDITION, JUDGING FROM FBIS REPORTS, USSR TOOK STRICTLY NEUTRAL POSITION ON IRAQI-IRANIAN BORDER CLASH, AND THIS MUST HAVE DISPLEASED IRAQIS. ON KEY KURDISH ISSUE, USSR AND ICP SEEM TO BE ALREADY GIVING FULL BACKING TO BAATH PLAN FOR KURDISH AUTONOMY AND FEW OBSERVERS WOULD AGREE WITH FINNISH AMB THAT REGIME IS PLANNING MAJOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST KURDS. IN SHORT, VISIT SEEN AS IRAQI INITIATIVE AIMED AT REVERSING DETERIORATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, CHEIF AMONG WHICH ARE IRAQ'S ISOLATION FROM REST OF ARAB WORLD AND FEAR OF IRANIAN MILITARY PRESSURE.

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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